

## Understanding Adult Sex Offenders

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- **Most men who commit sexual offenses do not know their victim.**

**False.** 90% of child victims know their offender, with almost half of the offenders being a family member. Of sexual assaults against people age 12 and up, approximately 80% of the victims know the offender.

- **Most child sexual abusers use physical force or threat to gain compliance from their victims.**

**False.** In the majority of cases, abusers gain access to their victims through deception and enticement, seldom using force. Abuse typically occurs within a long-term, ongoing relationship between the offender and victim and escalates over time.

- **Only men commit sexual assault.**

**False.** While most sex offenders are male, sometimes sex offenses are committed by female offenders.

- **If a child does not tell anyone about the abuse, it is because he or she must have consented to it.**

**False.** Children often do not tell for a variety of reasons including the offender's threats to hurt or kill someone the victim loves, as well as shame, embarrassment, wanting to protect the offender, feelings for the offender, fear of being held responsible or being punished, fear of being disbelieved, and fear of losing the offender who may be very important to the child or the child's family.

- **It is common for both child and adult victims of sexual assault to wait some time before telling someone about the abuse.**

**True.** It is common for victims of sexual assault to wait some time before telling someone. When the person was assaulted as a child, he or she may wait years or decades. The reasons for this are numerous: victims may want to deny the fact that someone they trusted could do this to them; they may want to just put it behind them; they may believe the myth that they caused the assault by their behavior; or they may fear how other people will react to the truth.

- Sexual gratification is often not a primary motivation for a rape offender.

**True.** While some offenders do seek sexual gratification from the act, sexual gratification is often not a primary motivation for a rape offender. Power, control, and anger are more likely to be the primary motivators.

- Offenders could stop their sexually violent behavior on their own if they wanted to.

**False.** Wanting to change is usually not enough to be able to change the patterns that lead to sexual offenses. To create the motivation to change, some offenders need a variety of treatment and corrective interventions, and for others learning how to make the change in their own behavioral cycle of abuse is more effective.

- Drugs and alcohol cause sexual offenses to occur.

**False.** While drugs and alcohol are often involved in sexual assaults, drugs and alcohol do not cause sexual offenses to occur. Rather, drug and alcohol use may be a disinhibitor for the offender, while being under the influence may increase a potential victim's vulnerability.

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- If a victim does not say "no" or does not "fight back," it is not sexual assault.

**False.** Sexual assault victims may not say "no" or not fight back for a variety of reasons including fear and confusion. Rape victims often report being "frozen" by fear during the assault, making them unable to fight back; other victims may not actively resist for fear of angering the assailant and causing him to use more force in the assault. Pressure to be liked and not be talked about negatively by a peer will sometimes cause adolescents or children to avoid fighting back or actively resisting.

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## What IS a Sex Offender?

- Pedophile
- Exhibitionist
- Frotteur
- Voyeur
- Sexual Sadist

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## What IS a Sex Offender?

- Necrophilia
- Zoophilia
- Klismaphilia
- Coprophilia
- Urophilia
- Telephone Scatalogia

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## Other Issues

- Dual Diagnosis Offenders
  - The role drugs & alcohol can play in risk
  - What drugs & alcohol CAN'T do
- Personality Disordered Offenders
  - Narcissistic
  - Borderline
  - Antisocial

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## What you need to know

- |                         |                                 |
|-------------------------|---------------------------------|
| • Lifestyle             | • Sexual Practices              |
| ◦ Power & Control       | ◦ Favorite acts with victim(s)  |
| ◦ Misogynistic          | ◦ Power & Control               |
| ◦ Partner is survivor   | ◦ Petite partners               |
| ◦ Manipulative          | ◦ Different persona with victim |
| ◦ Other victims         | ◦ Prefers shaved pubic area     |
| ◦ Hx of abuse in family | ◦ Pornography prevalent         |
| ◦ Deviancy as a teen    |                                 |
| ◦ Justifies behaviors   |                                 |

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### Choosing a victim

- Offenders are particularly good at this
- Look for victims who are most likely to comply and least likely to tell
- The perfect victim...

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### The "Perfect Victim"

- |                           |                                |
|---------------------------|--------------------------------|
| • Developmentally delayed | • Likes to "party"             |
| • Pre-verbal              | • Looks/dresses/acts sexy      |
| • Physically challenged   | • Promiscuous                  |
| • History of lying        | • Physically developed         |
| • "trouble-maker"         | • Prior history of abuse       |
| • "Disturbed child"       | • Drug user                    |
| • Disrespects authority   | • Bad relationship with abuser |

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### Teen victims – lost in translation

- I may want to look and dress like Christina Aguilera, but it doesn't mean I want to have sex with my 50-year old step-father!!
- I think I know everything and know what is best for me, but I won't for several more years
- I still need adults to be the responsible ones (although I'd never admit this) because my brain isn't fully developed yet
- I sometimes need to be protected from myself!
- Please don't punish me for being physically developed or attractive.

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## The Perfect mate

- Abused as a child herself
- Was not believed or taken seriously
- No action taken against abuser
- May still be in denial about seriousness of own abuse
- Very few personal boundaries
- No sense of what is healthy in a family environment
- Has had drug/alcohol problems in past or now
- Has children from past relationship(s)
- Has been in abusive relationships
- Easy to manipulate
- Marital rape not recognized as such
- Sexual issues abound (in either direction)
- Looking to be "rescued" by a man

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## Grooming

- **Why?**
  - Prepares victim for what will happen
  - Gauges response & likelihood to tell
  - Gauges vulnerability
  - Acclimates child to intimate interactions
  - Descent into abuse
  - Line often blurry – usually frottage

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## Grooming (cont'd)

- **How?**
  - Keeping their secrets
  - Bathing, playing, dressing, etc.
  - Nudity around house
  - "Accidental" exposure
  - Pornography
  - Talking about sex/body development
  - Showing interest
  - Special treatment

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## Grooming (cont'd)

### • Who?

- The Victim
- The community
- The non-offending parent
- The professionals (Who, US?!)
- The Jury
- Themselves

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## Deception

- Sex offenders lie – ALOT!
- May lie about seemingly arbitrary things
- Will lie when there is nothing to gain
- Always check with your team – they will tell different stories to different people

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## Deception

- You cannot tell when an offender is being honest. No matter how good you are at reading people – if they can fool their families, they can fool you, too!
- Polygraphs are heavily relied upon in the treatment community. Just when you think you know a client...
- When you feel yourself really *believing* a suspect/AP, BEWARE!

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## Instant Remorse

- Add interrogation and stir!
- Nothing makes a sex offender more sorry for raping a child than getting caught
- Tears tend to flow freely at this point. Remember who the tears are for (hint – it's not the victim)
- Magically cured – “I swear I'll never do it again!!”
- Shame, embarrassment, and remorse are abundant – he's been caught!

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## Distorted Thinking

- Common Thinking Errors used by ALL offenders with everyone before, during, after offenses – different than how we all use them daily
- They will use these during investigations and interviews – can be very tiring to plow through over and over
- They really believe what they are saying (most of the time)

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## What Offenders are Best at:

### *Bullshitting themselves!*

Sex Offenders are able to convince themselves that what they are doing is OK and maybe even a *good* thing!

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### Compulsion or an Addiction?

- Erick Janssen, PhD, a researcher at the Kinsey Institute, criticizes the use of the term addiction when talking about porn because he says it merely describes certain people's behavior as being addiction-like, but treating them as addicts may not help them.
- "The therapists who treat pornography addicts say they behave just like any other addicts," says Mary Anne Layden, PhD, a psychologist at the University of Pennsylvania

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### Compulsion or an Addiction?

- "I think of porn addiction as a label that's used to put down behavior that's disapproved of socially," Violet Blue, a sex educator and author of *The Ultimate Guide to Adult Videos*,

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Have you ever met a  
Poor Sex Addict?



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### Internet Pornography

Top search term on the internet is "sex"

- Top 20 list: teen sex, teen porn
- 12% of all websites are porn
- 25% of all searches are porn
- 42.7% of all users view porn
- Internet pornography sales - \$4.9 B

toptenreviews.com

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### Internet Pornography

- Avg. age of first internet exposure to pornography - 11 years old
- 80% of 15-17 year olds have multiple hard core exposures
- 90% of 8-16 year olds have viewed porn online while doing homework

toptenreviews.com

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### Internet Pornography

Types of Collections

- 83% prepubescent children
- 80% graphic
- 1 in 5 depict sexual violence (bondage, rape & torture)
- 39% videos of children involved in sexual acts
- CP - \$3 billion yearly

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### *Why do they collect CP?*

- Satisfies their excessive compulsive sexual fantasies about children
- Souvenir / Trophy of their sexual activities
- Lowers children's inhibitions
- A medium of exchange
- Blackmailing their victim
- Validates their behavior

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### *Butner Study*

- Sexual Offender Treatment Program
- 90 incarcerated males
- 23-66 years of age

#### 2 Variables

- # of contact sexual crimes subject was KNOWN to have committed prior to entering treatment
- # of self reported contact sexual crimes divulged over the course of evaluation and treatment

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### *Butner Study*

- Classified by Offense
- 62 men CP/Traveler (production, distribution, receipt, possession of cp, & luring)
- 24 men Contact Sex Offenders (sexual molest, abuse or assault of child or adult victims)
- 4 men Non-Sexual Offenses (bank robberies, mail fraud, drugs)

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### *Butner Study*

- 62 men in the CP/Traveler Group
- 55 contact sexual crimes were documented
- 0.89 victims / offender
- Afterwards, these offenders admitted to an additional 1,379 contact sexual offenses (never detected)
- 23.65 victims / offender

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### *Butner Study*

24 men in the Contact Sex Offender Group

- 49 contact sexual crimes were documented
- 2.04 victims / offender
- Afterwards, these offenders admitted to an additional 183 contact sexual offenses (never detected)
- 9.6 victims / offender

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### *Butner Study*

4 men in the Non-Sexual Offense Group

- 2 contact sexual crimes were documented
- 0.5 victims / offender
- Afterwards, these offenders admitted to an additional 60 contact sexual offenses (never detected)
- 15.5 victims / offender

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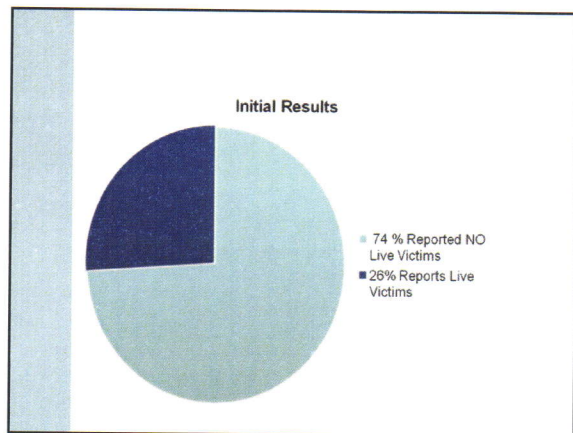
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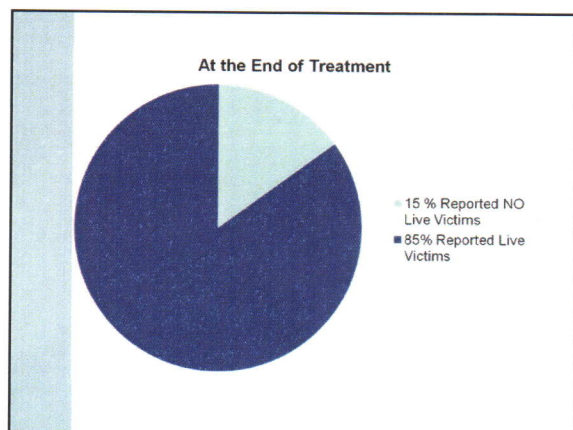
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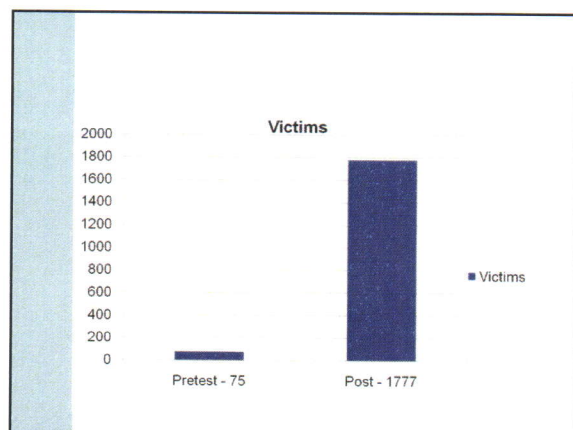
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So, What Do You Think Now?



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Great Quotes (from some not-so great minds)

- I thought she was my wife
- My finger accidentally slipped in
- I thought I was dreaming
- She started masturbating me first (4-yo vc)
- She looked like Britney Spears
- She was loving it (9-yo vc)
- She was soaking it up (11-yo vc)

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Consequences

- Our two options right now are probation or the penitentiary
- The max time for probation varies
- Max pen time varies with offense
- Probation is NOT automatically revoked with one violation
- Treatment can be offered in either setting

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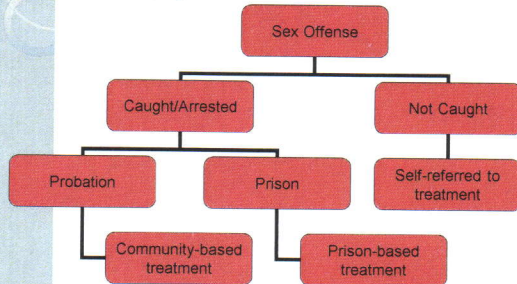
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## How they get to treatment



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## Sex Offender Treatment

- Treatment is usually court-ordered as a part of the COP
- May take 3-5 years to complete
- Not the same as therapy – no tree-hugging here!
- An evolving science
- No magic formulas, is not a cure – simply tools to not re-offend
- Offender must be motivated to change
- MUST be done by an LSOTP

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## Treatment (cont'd)

- Components:
  - Weekly group sessions
    - Responsibility
    - Empathy
    - Anger Management
    - Distorted Thinking
  - Regular polygraphs
  - Plethysmograph (PPG)
  - Staffings
  - Communication with P.O.

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## Protecting the Community

- Who has the power to stop sexual assault of children and adults??
- What more should we be doing?
- How can we prevent rather than react?
- Who could best do this?

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